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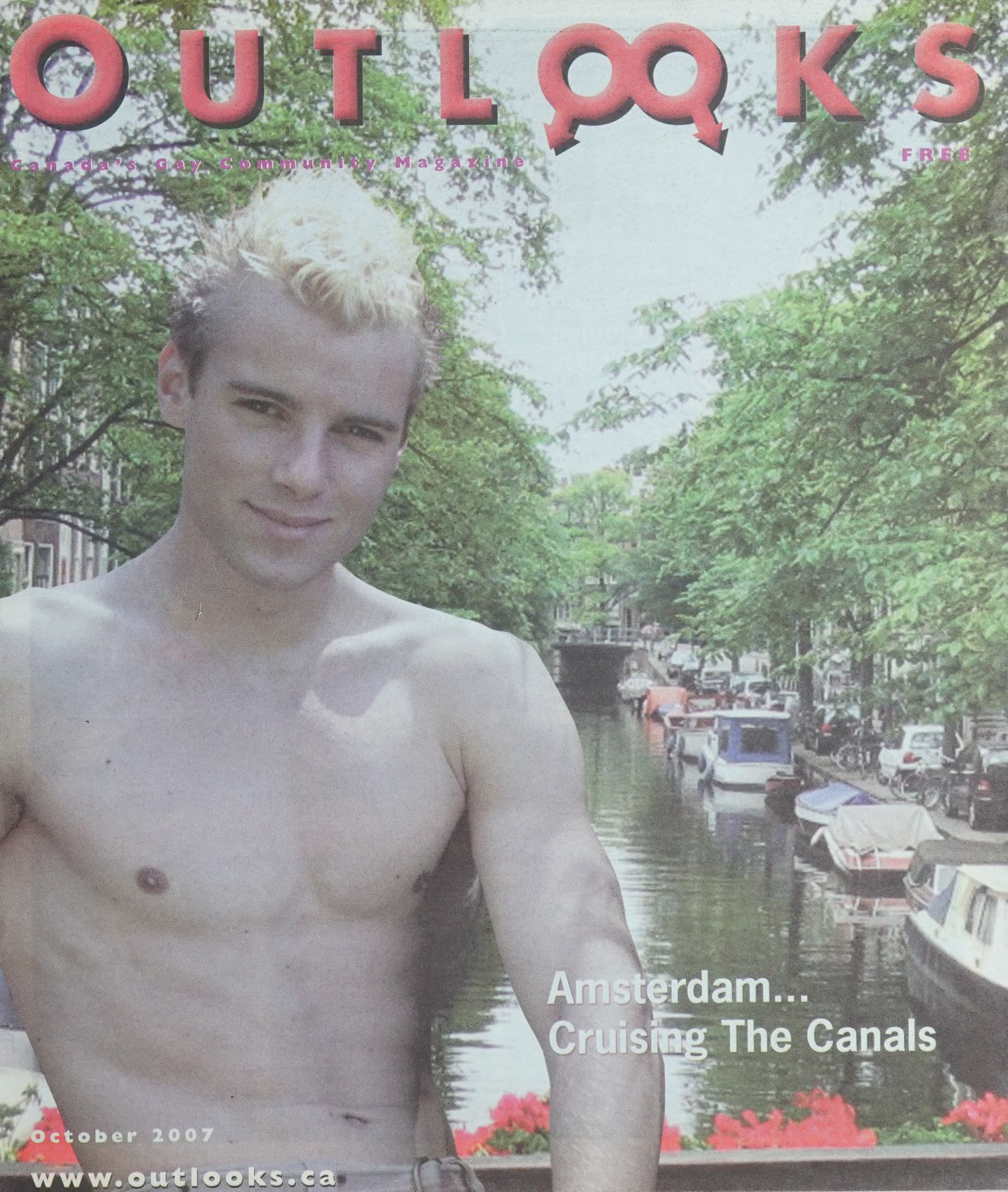

Amsterdam... Cruising The Canals

October 2007

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October 2007

On the Cover:

Eurocreme model Cameron Jackson who now makes his home in Amsterdam.

Photo courtesy of Eurocreme.com

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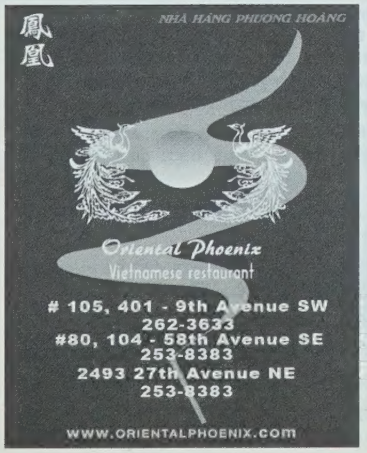
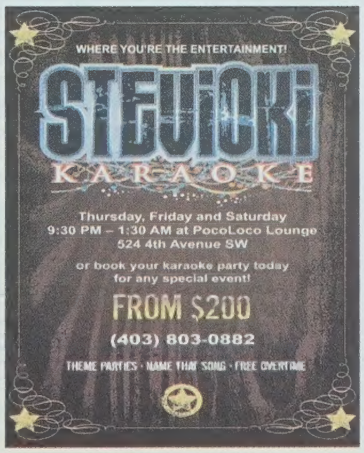
It was a gala evening as some of Edmonton's elite gathered to celebrate the career of a true Edmontonian: Michael Phair, after fifteen years in office as city Councillor, is exiting gracefully from a political life well-lived.

Pride Celebrations are now an integral part of Canadian life—the 2007 summer months in particular—have brought tens of thousands of people from all walks of life across Canada cheerfully rallying in the streets in support of the GLBT community.

Elizabeth May is one of these people.

Although it's not official, Amsterdam is considered by many to be the gay capital of Europe—if not the world. Steeped in gay history, homosexuality in Amsterdam was decriminalized in 1811 with the first gay bar opening in 1927. Since that time, Amsterdam has fostered a vital gay community with bars, cafes, the famous coffeshops and other meeting places. It's a city that sprung out of marshes and grasslands, surrounded by water and 'floating' on a web of canals. Those early roots developed into one of the most beautiful and historic European cities, one in which the GLBT culture plays a vital role.





Library Adds Gay Movies

By Jonathan Busch

Christine Hall

While cable television proves there is no shortage of moving image gay and lesbian representations, it has yet to investigate the diversity of such representations beyond contemporary buzz and mere cultural archetypes. Queer representations depend as much on the creative form of a text as they do on the identities they "stand in" for; in short, the movies have helped make us into who we think we are.

Recently, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has included in its expansive DVD collection of feature films a list of gay and lesbian titles that spans across several unique historical periods and genres. Christine Hall, a Library Assistant for the Centre for Reading and the Arts (CRA), began coordinating the project of updating the collection earlier this year.

"One of our staff members who was updating the GLBT subject page on our website pointed out to me the sad state of the DVD listings," Hall says. "There had not been a major purchase of GLBT content films since the days of VHS."

The CRA department, located at the downtown Stanley A. Milner branch, focuses on promoting a variety of resources that branch off from its designated name, including fiction, literacy, audio-visual, and teen services. A range of programming and events occur from book clubs to movie screenings to duct tape Ipod cover workshops. The EPL website boasts several links to book, music and film lists, including a "Rainbow Reading" list that compiles GLBT items in the library collection.

"Our management is very committed to serving all of Edmonton's communities," Hall reports, "and funds were made available for an upgrade."

Hall began the project with a lengthy list of 650 films, several of which were trimmed, as they were not available on DVD or "obviously inappropriate". The transgender classic *Different for Girls* was only recently made out of print, while an absurd horror parody like *Curse of the Queerwolf* just seemed unnecessary.

Staff members pared down the list further by researching how each film was reviewed, as well as their critical and audience perception at gay and lesbian film festivals. For example, while there were few critics who reviewed films like *Chutney Popcorn*, it nonetheless earned a number of wins and awards across the international festival circuit.

Meanwhile, some films listed as "Gay and Lesbian" in books like Videohound's *Golden Movie Retriever* contain limited gay content (a romantic comedy heroine's gay hairdresser, the infamous Gina from *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*). Therefore, some attention was also paid to choosing films with, as Hall describes, "some thematic substance".

The end result was a diverse selection of over eighty films picked from a number of stylistic genres. "These films will have an enduring appeal because they cover a wide spectrum," Hall says. "[There are] Hollywood, independent, international, and issue-based TV movies."

The Truth about Jane, made for television in 2000, stars Stockard Channing as an unsuspecting mother who discovers her daughter (Ellen Muth) has developed a lesbian relationship with a schoolmate. Such a film might, to some, seem melodramatic; it nonetheless draws upon issues specific to the period from which it emerges.

An appropriate contrast might be another of Hall's selections, *The Children's Hour* (1961). Cinematic icons Shirley Maclaine and Audrey Hepburn star as young teachers accused by a student of being secretly intimate. Historically, the film demonstrates a particular era's cautious, restrained methods of approaching issues of sexuality within American cinema.

Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman* tells a story a young black lesbian filmmaker, suddenly intrigued upon researching the life of a legendary black actress from the 1930's who had a secret relationship with a white female director. The film features scene-stealing cameos by famed lesbian author Sarah Schulman and feminist critic Camille Paglia.

Happy Together, from China by recent Cannes toast Wong Kar-Wai, follows two men on a road trip as their relationship begins to fall apart. Kar-Wai's style, which has been applied to a number of different human relationships in his films, intentionally distances the viewer from conventional forms of emotional engagement with characters. In doing so, his films approach novel forms of affect and characterization of sexual identity.

Hall also made room for more popular titles, queer favorites like *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *In and Out*, and that one about the gay cowboys. As well, several classics of the cult persuasion, made the cut: *My Beautiful Laundrette*, a Thatcher-era comedy-drama surrounding an Asian laundromat starring Daniel-Day Lewis, *Salmonberries*, the story of an Alaskan woman (KD Lang) who romances a Russian librarian while searching for her past, and the snazzy new Criterion release of Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*, featuring a bonus disc of audio interviews and documentaries.

"To be fair in the selection process, you have to overcome some personal prejudices," Hall admits. "*Philadelphia* makes me nuts. [It assumes] AIDS has something to do with hanging around darkened movie theatres while sporting a really bad moustache. Still, eight copies were ordered for the system. It did win Tom Hanks an Oscar."

"[Hanks'] bit with the IV and Maria Callas—please!" Hall grudges.

Each month, Hall screens different films to the public from EPL's entire DVD collection in a program called Cinema at the Centre. In June, she plucks a GLBT title to take part in Edmonton's Pride festivities. This year, a French road movie titled *The Adventures of Felix* was shown to a nearly packed house; following the screening, the film was added to the collection for patrons to borrow.

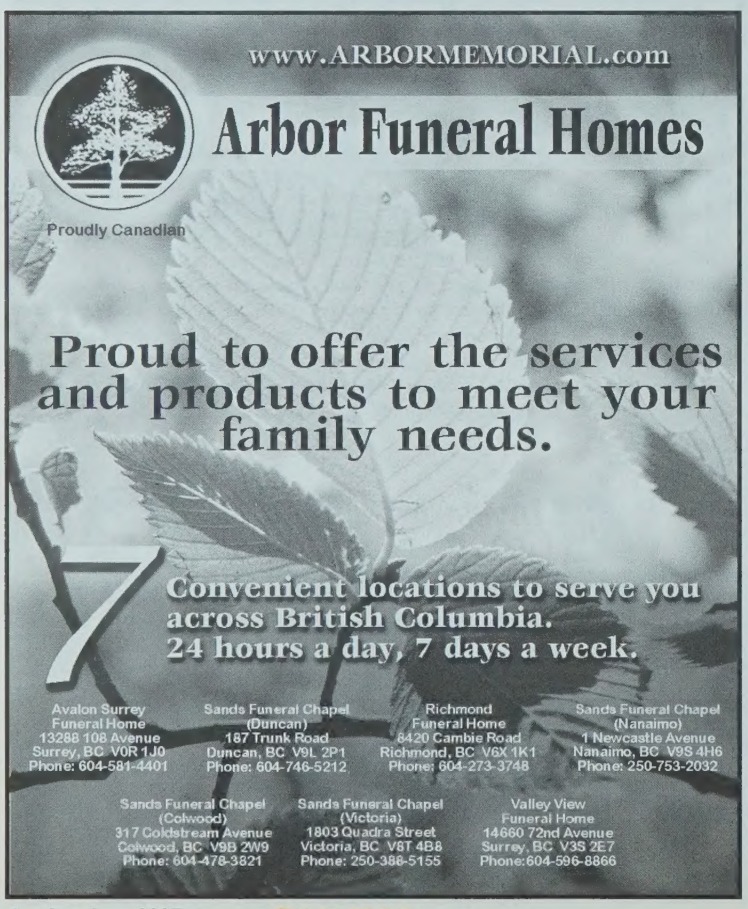
What are Hall's favorites from the collection? "*Ma Vie En Rose*, about a young transvestite, for it sheer Gallic charm, and *Serving in Silence*, because Glenn Close and Judy Davis make such a cute couple."

Hall doesn't include *The Birdcage* on her list, despite its popularity with patrons.

"Don't get me started on Robin Williams."

The film list, as well as the rest of the Rainbow Reading lists, can be viewed at **http://www.epl.ca/EPLMaster.cfm?id=RAINBOW**. ▼

Jonathan Busch is a student and freelance writer. He lives with his cat Mooshoo in downtown Edmonton.



Political Antics

By John Coulbourn

Whoever said, "The world is too much with us"—and frankly, having just completed a month's blissful holiday, I'm too damn relaxed to look up the source, although I've got a hunch it might have been old Wordsworth—said a mouthful.

In fact, it was that aforementioned holiday that drove the words home once again.

I mean, there we were, perched on a little patch o' paradise at the end of civilization, miles from anywhere, blissfully beyond the reach of all but the most determined callers, limited to a choice of two (yup, just two) television stations, both of which were celebrating a Canadian summer by re-running episodes of series so bad we hadn't even been tempted to watch them the first time around, and surviving quite happily in a world where daily papers and showers quickly became a treat reserved for weekends and high holidays. And yet, cut off as we were at the end of our little road, there proved no shortage of news to amuse, confuse and even enrage anyone even remotely plugged in to current events.

On the amusement front, it's hard to imagine anything more delicious than the ongoing saga of U.S. Senator Larry Craig, the sanctimonious Republican politico from the state of Idaho, forced to resign in the wake of a guilty plea to a reduced charge after his arrest for some apparent homo hijinx in the men's room of a Minneapolis airport last June. In resigning, however, Craig—who, it should be noted, reviled Bill Clinton as "a nasty, naughty boy" at the height of Monica-gate—recanted his guilty plea, insisting that not only was he not gay, he had never been gay—all of which leaves one wondering just what he was doing playing footsy and more with the undercover cop in the next stall. Sorry Larry, if you're out of paper, just ask!

Judging from the behaviour described by the arresting officer, a same-sex tryst may not be the only possible motivation but it is certainly the least bizarre and certainly the most hygienic. Still, while many of us find it almost impossible to find any sympathy for the fate of the coitus-interrupted Mr. Craig, surely I'm not the only one who found myself wondering—what with the fortune a lot of cities, including Minneapolis, I believe, have spent to attract gay tourists, coupled with the ongoing paranoia about air-borne terrorism in America—if the Minneapolis police force couldn't find something a little more productive to do with their time, unless, of course, they enjoy getting groped in the men's room.

And further, why someone who finds himself accosted in the same fashion as the undercover cop wouldn't simply step on the fingers of any wandering hands that happen to find their way under the partition.

And then, on a different front: Removed though we might have been from the self-styled centre of the universe in Toronto, it was hard to avoid the debate raging as Ontarians once again prepare to head for the polls in a provincial election.

And just to show how provincial: In a blatant attempt to appeal to the ethnic vote, Tory leader John Tory promises to level the playing field in a province where only Roman Catholic Separate Schools are funded from the public purse in the same fashion as public schools by extending funding to all religious-based schools that meet a set criteria to qualify.

Liberal leader and incumbent premiere, Dalton McGuinty, quite rightly insists that pouring tax dollars into religious schools will jeopardize the health of the public system but stops short of the only logical way to resolve this situation nonetheless, which is to withdraw tax dollars from the Roman Catholic system in the same way several other provinces have done.

And if you think this isn't a gay issue, think again, unless you want your tax dollar spent in support of a school system in which they teach that our gay lifestyle is not only wrong but also an abomination.

If a multi-cultural society is going to survive—and in Canada, it simply has to, for the alternatives are just too terrifying to contemplate—the public school system must not only be protected but improved, for in a multi-cultural society, what other way exists to teach children respect for other faiths, other creeds, other races and yes, other sexual orientations?

After generations of abuse from most established churches, a lot of GLBT men and women understandably want to limit their cash contribution to anything affiliated with organized religion to their two cents' worth at the ballot box.

Schools are for education, churches are for religion, and me?

I'm all for another vacation! ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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Artists for Quality of Life Cut-a-Thon September 3

Jayme Simons

Out & about CALGARY

Father Don

Linda & Lea at The Backlot

Tawde from The Backlot

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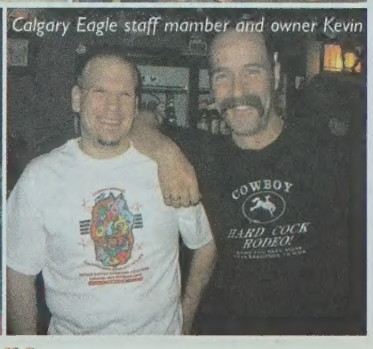
Cut-a-Thon Silent Auction at The Backlot

Howie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- John, 55, Toronto

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-Al, 31, Richmond Hill

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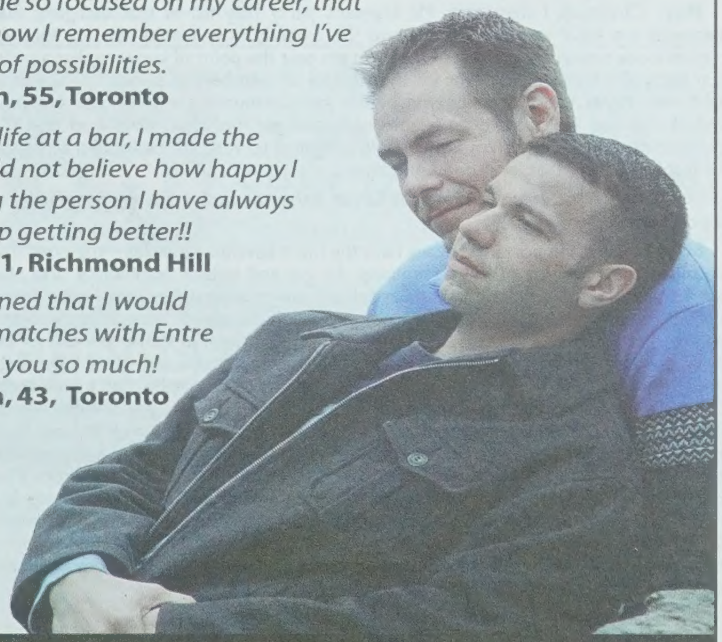
- Julian, 43, Toronto



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Elizabeth May

Federal Green Party Leader Elizabeth May speaks out unequivocally in support of gays

By Diane Walsh

Pride Celebrations are now an integral part of Canadian life—the 2007 summer months in particular— have brought tens of thousands of people from all walks of life across Canada cheerfully rallying in the streets in support of the GLBT community.

Elizabeth May is one of these people. Recently inspired to make a statement *Outlooks* gets a surprising look into the inner workings of the Green Party by having Elizabeth May sit down for an interview to present her commitment to the needs of GLBT communities. Freelance Journalist Diane Walsh characterizes this interview as having remarkable frankness and openness—when you hear the broad-reaching ecological and social policies of the Greens, it does start to sound like the next up-and-coming rainbow party. As the eco-leader with the greatest chance of becoming a Member of Parliament, it's certainly clear that Elizabeth May and her Green Party are in the forefront of a recognized queer agenda moving into government politics.

Outlooks: Do you believe that there is such a thing as the gay vote?

May: I have to say that I don't think so—in the same way that I'm not sure that there is a women's vote. The gay community obviously plays an enormously valuable role in the context of Canadian life and culture. I think if somebody of influence in a political party represented views that were entirely homophobic you could expect people in the gay community to uniformly vote against that party.

Outlooks: Does any current political party raise concern in this way?

May: Obviously, I think that Mr. Harper's party may fall in that category. But, between the NDP and the Greens and the Liberals, how would one say that we appeal more towards a gay vote? Once you get past the point of knowing that a political party respects and will fight for the right of all members of society on the basis of human rights, and the rights won by the gay community are not to be compromised, and that we need to go farther once you get into that terrain—is that the number one thing that drives how people are going to vote if they happen to be gay or lesbian? I think that is an open question.

Outlooks: What do you believe the Green Party can do for the gay community at a policy level?

May: I think it's important that we have the most advanced policies—the ones that speak to the concerns of the community, the gay and lesbian community. We also have an aging population. I think a lot of the issues coming up, or that I see coming up—or where the Green Party can help—is to raise consciousness in the other parties. Let's face it, we're not likely to form the government just after the end of the next election. We want to be in Parliament, we want to be able to make a difference, and we want to be able to influence the decisions that are made. But I have some concerns about the nature of the care for our seniors, so that gay seniors will be more comfortable in an environment that's welcoming and nurturing and fits their previous lifestyle. We need to think about what we need to do for an aging population. What do we do to ensure at the other end of the spectrum that we don't let down our guard at all on HIV/AIDS (prevention/funding) and make sure there is a high level of education. And we need to help youth. My daughter is now fifteen and in high school, where there are kids struggling with their sexuality, they need support; they need to know that if they decide to come out at a young age they'll get the support that they need.

Outlooks: What identifiers in your party speak directly to gays?

May: We are revamping our 2006 election platform substantially. There's no question we benefit enormously in policy development from the fact that our executive director Laurie Aaron just ran a successful campaign on Parliament Hill to protect same sex marriage rights. So in terms of our policies, I think that people in the gay and lesbian community will be very impressed with the election platform we will release in 2007, whether the election is this year or striding into 2008. We want people to know our policies, all the issues from a human rights point of view. In revamping our policies we've been very responsive to those policies advocated by the gay and lesbian community. This includes changes in the Criminal Code, changing age of consent—all those major points that one saw in (for instance) a major questionnaire put to political parties in 2006. I think that in the next federal election it will be clear that the Green Party of Canada is the one with the strongest policies.

Outlooks: What relevance does the Green Party platform have to the queer rights movement?

May: We are working to make sure that our policies are the most advanced so they speak to the issues—as one would expect to see in a party platform where we're looking ahead at what issues are going to come up in the House of Commons.

I mean the obvious ones are obvious ones. Making sure that as a matter of human rights and respect for the Charter there is access and no "climb—down" from the position that is now established in Canada with respect to same-sex marriage rights that must be protected. But we also want to ensure that we move into policies that are extremely sensitive, yet well designed to meet the needs of the gay and lesbian and transgender communities, and that we have the kind of supports that are needed in our society, including a social safety net that makes a difference for all different age categories, addressing what the gay and lesbian communities are looking for from their government.

Our platform is long, and we're going to be releasing it whether there is an election called or not, and it is going to be fully costed so that we know that we are actually fiscally responsible in the way that we are putting forward our policies and positions. So I'm very proud of our platform. Under "Rights, Respect and Dignity", we deal with women's equality and of course people with disabilities, new Canadians, and the gay community—lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights—starting from the foundation of freedom from discrimination.

Outlooks: Could you give a nugget of Green Party history where it has shown direct support for gay rights? Then give a precise example of what changes you intend to back for the future?

May: We were, in 1996, the first federal party to officially support the inclusion of same-sex couples and civil marriage. We've been strong on this historically, but I think some of this history is unknown to people in the community. Our vision is of a world free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We will amend the Human Rights Act to explicitly include gender identity and gender expression as protective grounds of discrimination. We will amend the Criminal Code to include gender identity and gender expression in the hate sentencing and hate propaganda provisions. We shall repeal section 159 of the Criminal Code, which is entirely discriminatory.

Outlooks: Yes. Just for reader's information: section 159 of the Code criminalizes anal intercourse for or with persons under 18, or where more than two persons are present—a blatant example of legally codifying the prohibition of teenage homosexual development.

May: We'll support public education to end prejudice. We'll end the targeting by Canada Customs of GLBT bookstores and other GLBT businesses and ensure that Canada's role internationally is to be a leader in demanding the end of state sanction of discrimination and violence against GLBT people anywhere around the world. That, in a nutshell, is where we'll be coming from for the federal election campaign.

Outlooks: It does seem like there is broad range support for all this—we've just had vibrant Pride rallies across Canada!

May: Yeah! I know I'm excited! If you're going to be a good political party you're going to have to do more than march in a gay pride parade—you actually have to do something!

Outlooks: Has the importance of Bill C-68 provided the political fuel necessary to counter discrimination in society at large, or is being against the gays still socially acceptable in private gab—perhaps when the camera's not on or in closed government circles?

May: That's a very excellent question. I think, frankly, that if you're talking about Canadian society as a whole, our polling data shows that Canadians have basically—definitely among young people in the Canadian society, gay or straight—the idea that there should be discrimination based on sexual orientation is really found offensive. Particularly among young Canadians, it's not an issue.

Outlooks: As you move into the so-called traditional "older generations" what do you see?

May: It is true that as you go up the demographic spectrum there are still people who are essentially homophobic. There is no point in pretending it's not there. So you have to say, let's get this issue of discrimination dealt with. Let's not try and hide it! A recent poll that we found kind of worrying—at the top of the poll we were really happy to see that Canadians were less likely than people south of the border to regard people of Middle-Eastern origin as potential terrorists. But the same poll showed an unacceptably high level of people who essentially thought that the GLBT community still had a stigma attached, and were less likely to want a neighbor who

On the campaign trail

was gay than a neighbor who was Middle-Eastern. Not so good. As I say again on the women's issues, we are on a journey in Canada at being tolerant as a society that's all embracing and all-inclusive; but we are not yet at our destination. And so you can't let your guard down for a minute. You have to keep pushing ahead.

Outlooks: Do you believe that Canada at this time in history could be or is a model for electing a gay leader who is "out," provincially or federally? That is to say, would the Green Party openly support a member who wanted to run and say publicly, without apology, that he or she is openly gay and that this issue is important to his/her vantage point?

May: Absolutely! I mean, we've had that, we have done that. The Green Party was the first party with a leader who was publicly "out" and we have candidates who are in the gay lesbian community and we support them one hundred percent in making that point. In describing myself, I have a lot of descriptors, right? I'm a single mom, a practicing Christian, an environmental advocate, and I was a lawyer. I don't hide any of my descriptors, and neither should any candidate who has made the decision to go public. I don't think it's a stigma. I think Canada's way past that. We certainly have had some spectacularly strong members of parliament who were publicly gay. There are still some people of Mr. Harper's government that don't talk about their sexuality because I think there's a stigma in that government; but there shouldn't be—come out and be proud. ▼

Diane Walsh is an international freelance journalist based in Victoria, BC. She writes on progressive themes frequently interviewing prominent figures, of interest to the QGLBT community in Canada, America, and Europe

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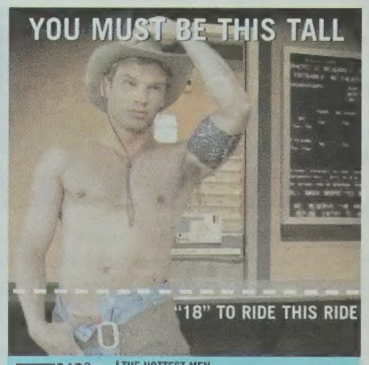

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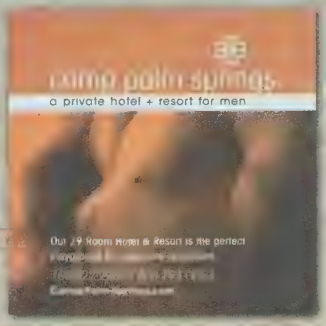

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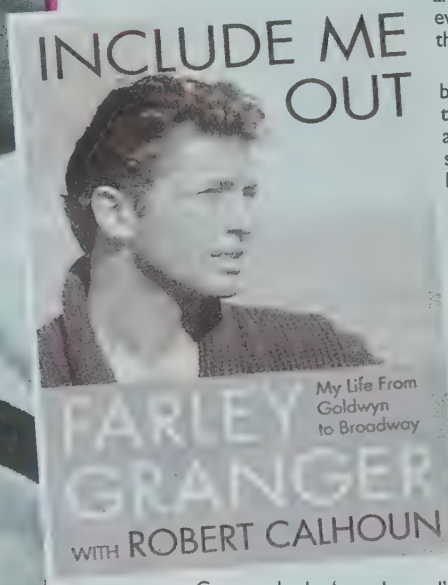
Out From Hollywood to Broadway

By Thom Nickels

Farley Granger and his partner Robert Calhoun are seated in a small hotel suite in Philadelphia. The couple arrived barely an hour ago from Manhattan, so they've barely had time to relax. The suite is small—disappointing in a way—with a Japanese kabuki design. Small screen panels divide the rooms and Granger and Calhoun have closed off everything except the tiny living room so that it's almost claustrophobic.



We scramble for seats—me on the sofa beside Granger, and Calhoun on two chairs to the left of me. Something about the arrangement doesn't feel right and Calhoun says, "Do we want to do some switching here?" The feng shui moment ends when I suggest that Granger and Calhoun sit together on the sofa. I face them on a single chair with sturdy arms.

"I feel like I'm facing a double barrel shot gun," I say.

They appreciate the joke.

I can't take my eyes off Granger because I'm looking for resemblances to the handsome matinee idol face in Alfred Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train* and *Rope*, two films I watched several times prior to the interview. There are resemblances of course—Granger's eyebrows and eyes, a muted but still alive boyish receptivity and his long fingers remind me of his younger days.

Granger looks 'overdressed' in an autumn windbreaker (he must be prone to chills) while the accountant-smart Calhoun is in a short-sleeved red shirt that makes me think of Nantucket.

"Farley has always had this ability to not worry how it's all going to work out, while I'm always thinking, 'Well I better do something or I'll be sleeping in the gutter.' But Farley's focus was never that," Calhoun tells me after I question Granger about his move from Hollywood film making to the world of New York theater.

Granger's big career move then was prompted by the boredom of making films—sitting on the set all day, filming the last part of a movie first, then jumping to the middle or the beginning and back again, on and on until he felt disconnected and alienated as an actor. In time Granger would buy out his contract with Sam Goldwyn and move to New York, a city where he says he longed to live the life of a real actor, struggling and starving in a garret.

What's extraordinary about Granger is that he wanted to do this [starve] even after his success as a Hollywood leading man.

Calhoun, however, says that despite Granger's success he never made any real money until he filmed Visconti's *Senso* in Italy.

Granger was in Philadelphia to receive the Philadelphia Gay & Lesbian Film Festival's Artistic Achievement Award, and to speak and sign copies of his book, *Include Me Out* (co-authored by Calhoun) at Giovanni's Room, the city's GLBT bookstore.

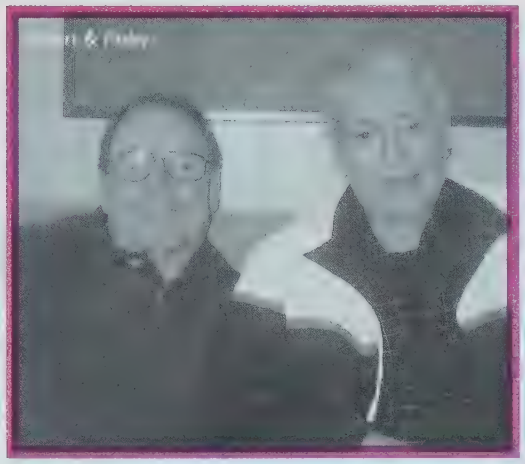
Discovered in a little theater production by a Hollywood agent when he was seventeen years old and a student at North Hollywood High (Susan Sontag's alma mater), Granger was immediately signed to Sam Goldwyn, the Hollywood mogul who would later become his nemesis, but also the catalyst for his new life in the theater. Granger's rise as a film star was meteoric, even magical. He never had to wait tables or spend years going to open casting calls.

Despite a stint in the Army during WW II where he lost his virginity to both sexes on the same day—in the morning to an Hawaiian female escort and in the evening to a handsome male Lieutenant—his career in film and the theater seemed to progress at a comfortable—if not always peaceful rate, but the *Beautiful One* made it, never-the-less.

How was it to be gay in Hollywood during the McCarthy era, when other actors like Rock Hudson, James Dean, Tab Hunter and Cary Grant were often "forced" to find women to be their beards?

"It was never a problem for me," Granger tells me, his dead-on stare never wavering. "I didn't hang out with the gay actor crowd but stuck to the musical theater group where people didn't care who or what you were."

For people who say there's no such thing as bisexuality, Granger defies the odds: he had affairs with Ava Gardner, Barbara Stanwyck, and was engaged to Shelley Winters. He also tumbled between the sheets with Leonard Bernstein, French actor



Jean Marais (Jean Cocteau's lover), and screen writer Arthur Laurents.

Laurents was his first big male affair, and while the two remained friends after the affair was over, Granger says he couldn't stay with Laurents because he was "just too bitchy and catty."

"I know a lot of gay men who can relate to that," I say.

Calhoun and Granger became partners while working in Philadelphia at the Forrest Theater, on the day that John F. Kennedy was killed. They had been friends previously but decided not to complicate things with an intimate relationship. (Shortly after Kennedy's murder, Calhoun told me that the pair had gone to Dallas and that "Farley walked the city streets, shouting 'City of shame!'")

Calhoun, a former executive producer of popular American soap operas like *The Guiding Light* and *As The World Turns*, almost always takes the lead in any Q and A.

"*Include Me Out* is a very compelling book," I tell him. "There are zero boredom gaps."

"We had a good editor [with the book] and we felt good about her. There are certain books that get so graphic or specific with their content, it turns off a segment of the audience that you want to reach," Calhoun says.

As Hollywood memoirs go, *Include Me Out* has it all, including scoops on Joan Crawford, Granger's close friend Shelley Winters, memories of Sir Alfred Hitchcock, Robert Walker, Joan Collins, Anne Bancroft, Julie Harris, Oscar Levant and others. Dozens of actor celebrities appear and disappear during the course of the story.

There's the story of Joan Crawford's desire to have a dinner meeting with Granger. While Granger agreed to the meeting, he wound up waiting over an hour for the Wire Hanger Queen to show. While waiting for Crawford, Granger killed time by downing a number of Navy Grog highballs, always dangerous on an empty stomach. By the time Crawford arrived he was on the heavy end of tipsy. Crawford, wickedly magisterial as always, proceeded to ask Granger his opinion on the current flock of Hollywood stars. The pointless Q and A went on without end, Granger says, but after being kept waiting for such a long time his patience ran out.

He excused himself and walked out on Joan Crawford.

"How did it feel to walk out on Joan Crawford? What did she want anyway? Did she want to bed you?" I ask.

"I don't know," Granger murmurs, still stumped after all these years.

Granger and Calhoun have more Shelley Winters stories than can be bound between the covers of a book.

"She was certainly bipolar," Granger says, "she was just crazy but I loved her just the same." Although Granger and Winters were engaged for a time, it ended when it became obvious that Winters' instability was an emotional liability. Still, their friendship managed to survive.

A master at crying jags and manipulating events and people to benefit her professional goals, Winters, Calhoun says, was so egocentric that when she moved into Calhoun and Granger's apartment building she seriously considered asking management if they'd like to install a photograph of her in the lobby.

"You mean Shelley Winters as a Russian icon with a grill in front and a votive candle hanging in front of it?" I suggest.

Both men laugh.

Calhoun laughs easily but sometimes Granger becomes quiet and seems to drift into a dense trance. Granger's eyes are so solidly dark it's difficult to read what he may be feeling or thinking, but the effect is arresting. It is obvious that without Calhoun, Granger would not be on the road signing books.

In Hitchcock's *Rope*—a takeoff on the famous Leopold and Loeb case of the 1920s, in which two intellectually gifted gay lovers go on a crime spree and murder a twelve-year-old boy for the fun of it in their Chicago neighborhood—Granger emotes a supple vulnerability rare for a Hollywood leading man of the period. Much has been written about *Rope's* gay subtext in an age when the word homosexual could not be mentioned.

Hitchcock, who had done some two dozen films in Europe before coming to Hollywood, was trained in the highly stylized world of German cinema, best exemplified in the expressionism of Fritz Lang.

Hollywood welcomed Hitchcock with half-open arms, but he was never accepted as an equal. He was a German from England at the height of a xenophobic period. He also never won an Academy Award.

Granger says that Hitchcock came close to being the perfect director and that the crews loved him. He always knew what he was going to do and didn't ask for collective input. Granger doesn't consider many of the current Hollywood directors real directors but says they are always asking for advice, input and help from the cast.

Off-camera, Granger says he'd be invited to dinner at Hitchcock's house on weekends where everyone would be happily drunk, telling stories.

At one point I remind Granger of his description of Ava Gardener as the most beautiful and compelling of all his bed partners.

"Is that really true?"

"Oh yes," Granger agrees.

"Well, what was I, chopped liver?" Calhoun says, facing Granger on the sofa.

At one point Calhoun says there used to be a list with the names of all the men with whom Ava Gardener had slept.

"Was it a lot of names? Was it as bad as an out of control man in a male bathhouse?" I joke.

"No, it wasn't like that," Calhoun answers, laughing, "but there were at least a dozen names, and Howard Hughes' name was on it."

After the tour both men say they are going to Europe, especially London and their beloved Italy, to see old friends. ▼

Thom Nickels is a Philadelphia-based author and journalist and the author of eight published books, including Philadelphia Architecture and Out in History.

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IT IS HARD TO RESIST THIS

By Ryan Spring

Summer is at an end and we have to become more creative with our activities as the fall is here and the temperature cools. Of course, we always have the gym and other indoor activities such as swimming, squash or a lucky night out. However, there is something small, portable and very inexpensive that may take up the slack around the house and even while on that business trip or vacation.

I'm referring to the resistance band (also called: exercise bands, stretch bands, ripcords, and fitness bands.) These are large bands of elastic material, with or without handles, and are extremely versatile for all types of routine exercises. They can target major muscle groups including triceps, biceps, abs, shoulders and almost anything in between. They're also excellent to incorporate into your regular exercise routine and are always useful for 'active-rest' or low-impact activity between sets of your main exercises. They can also be incorporated with your stretching exercises before or after a workout and can be used easily at home or anywhere—indoors and out.

Resistance bands are key in developing and strengthening stabilizing muscles and are often used in physiotherapy and for simple exercises for senior citizens. Best of all, they're portable, easy-to-use and inexpensive. And, since they are so light and compact, resistance bands are a perfect piece of simple equipment while travelling that won't set off the metal detectors and always come in under 50lbs!

The resistance band can be used in conjunction with other equipment including the exercise ball or BOSU ball. If you're not comfortable hitting the gym, resistance bands are an excellent activity one can perform in the privacy of their own home or hotel room. Also, if you simply just don't have time to make it to your regular gym session, this equipment makes for an excellent substitute rather than skipping a day of exercise.

Most resistance bands come in different colours and reflect the resistance level. Yellow bands tend to be the thinnest, while blues are heavy and silver and black tend to be extra heavy and offer the most resistance. You don't necessarily require all levels of bands, but having a variety is always beneficial in any workout.

Of the few studies available on resistance bands, one clearly illustrates the benefits of resistance band training. A 2002 study in Kansas proved the effects of resistance band training on physical function in older adults was beneficial and measurable after only six weeks of training. Sixteen women participated in exercise training consisting of chair-based exercises using resistance bands. Resistance band training improved lower body strength by approximately twenty per cent and improved upper body strength by twenty-four per cent after the study period. Other successes have been found very recently in Canada with Parkinson's patients who have demonstrated measurable improved physical health in regards to their disease after using resistance band training combined with light free-weights. But the best proof is by trying this piece of equipment out for yourself. Below is a sampling of simple resistance band exercises that you can perform anywhere and anytime while providing you with measurable results in strength and flexibility.

Since there are few studies available to determine accurate sets and repetitions for resistance band exercises, one should do a maximum set that is comfortable for your own strength level and resistance level of the band you are using. You should feel some degree of muscle fatigue with each set and you'll learn how far you can go on your own. It's quite subjective so you'll have to learn what your body demands and what threshold your body will tolerate.

EXCERCISES

Bicep Curl

Place one foot on band and grasp handles with arms parallel to your side. Bend the elbows and curl hands up towards your shoulder. Lower and repeat. You may also try the curl across your body upward toward the shoulder.

One-Armed Lateral Raise

Stand with one end of the band under one foot and grasp the handle in the other hand. Keep your elbow at your side and stretch the band outward with your elbow lined up with your shoulder. This may be performed in a standing position, bending forward or while sitting on an exercise ball.

Kneeling Shoulder Press

Tie the band to a solid structure and grasp handles. Kneel and bring your hands up in line with your shoulders with elbows bent. Extend your arms and maintain alignment with your shoulder for a full press.

Shoulder Rotation

Tie one end of the band to a solid structure and hold the other end in one hand, squeezing your abs, keeping your elbow close to your torso slightly bent and in a fixed position. Extend arm to opposite side of the tied-band 180-degrees. This is excellent for strengthening shoulder stabilizers.

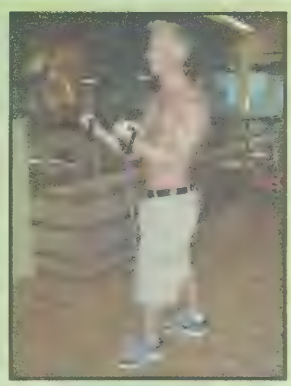
Other common resistance band exercises include: Chest Press, Shoulder Extension, Arm Pullover, Tricep Press, Leg Adduction, Leg Curl, Hip Extension, Squat and Hip Flexion.

So, grab some resistance bands and keep your body fit and healthy from anywhere you're located. As always, don't forget to consult a certified fitness professional with any questions and enjoy the versatility in your workout routine. ▼

Ryan Spring is an ACE-certified (American Council on Exercise) personal trainer. For more information: ryanspringfitness.com

Photos by Jason Hughes

BICEP CURL



ONE ARMED LATERAL RAISE

KNEELING SHOULDER PRESS

SHOULDER ROTATION

Cannabis College

Stadsschouwburg Theatre

AMSTERDAM

reaching new HIGHS!

Although it's not official, Amsterdam is considered by many to be the gay capital of Europe—if not the world. Steeped in gay history, homosexuality in Amsterdam was decriminalized in 1811 with the first gay bar opening in 1927. Since that time, Amsterdam has fostered a vital gay community with bars, cafes, the famous coffeshops and other meeting places. It's a city that sprung out of marshes and grasslands, surrounded by water and 'floating' on a web of canals. Those early roots developed into one of the most beautiful and historic European cities, one in which the GLBT culture plays a vital role.

On April 1, 2001 it was no April Fools' joke when Amsterdam's Mayor Job Cohen wed four gay couples–three male and one female—at the stroke of midnight, heralding the world's first gay marriages. From this historic ceremony, several other countries have followed the Dutch lead and hopefully there will be more who follow suit. This has probably led the recent renaissance, as Amsterdam has once again become a leading GLBT vacation destination. The shimmering canals reflect the facades of classic centuries-old homes. The lively nightlife and liberal attitude toward sex and drugs, amuses every visitor to the city. Although a little confusing at first, Amsterdam is laid out in a series of concentric, horseshoe-shaped circles of canals skirted with narrow streets. The main train station, Centraal, is at the heart of it all and from there trams can take you to every part of the city. It's a compact city, and walking or biking is a favorite way to see the sights. All of Amsterdam is very gay-friendly rather than one concentrated gay-village cluster.

However, five neighborhoods do have a higher predominance of rainbow flags and pink triangles. To enjoy everything which Amsterdam has to offer for the gay tourist it is almost essential to purchase *The Bent Guide* published by Pink Point—available before you leave home on Amazon.com—which is a humorous but fact-filled book with 135 pages of GLBT information which will guarantee a wonderful gay time in this city. It's a guide to everything that's not straight in Amsterdam and will prove to be your best purchase of the entire holiday.

The Reguliersdwarsstraat, nicknamed The Vanilla Slice of town, is centrally located close to the famous canal-side Flower Market (doesn't every gay man love flowers?) and is home to trendy bars for the younger set and the renowned Otherside coffeeshop—where hash brownies or a rocket roach are a treat! At the famous Flower Market you can buy your bulbs to plant for next year's garden or you can purchase some amazingly realistic carved wooden tulips for the everlasting floral gift, a Dutch tradition, for that special someone back home.

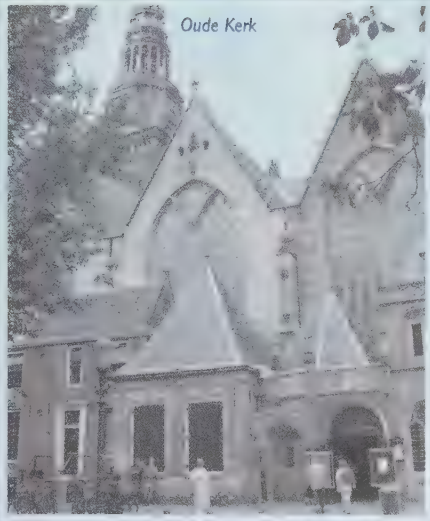
The pedestrian 'camping it up' ritual along the Amstel River and the adjacent Halvemaansteeg is legendary. It is also the neighbourhood of traditional Dutch pubs, taverns and brown cafes. Centered around the Rembrandt monument, here you'll find sidewalk cafes and an amiable mix of younger and older gay patrons plus anyone who enjoys downing a Heineken beer while listening—or singing along—to music.

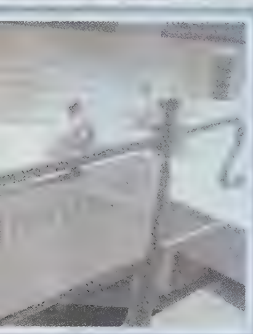
Known as the Dark Side or the leather belt, Warmoesstraat, in the heart of Amsterdam's infamous red light district, comprises late night fetish bars, dungeon-like dark rooms and, of course, the legendary coffeeshops. There are also a multitude of porn vendors and novelty stores to satisfy every fetish imaginable or to find that unique gift to take back home. While you're in the vicinity, you might also want to attend a lecture at the Cannabis College or inspect their well-maintained gardens to the rear of the school—a guaranteed highlight for many visitors to Amsterdam. And by the way, you might also want to visit Oude Kerk, which is located in the very heart of this district in between the Red Light zone and the gay leather bars. It is the oldest church in Amsterdam, believed to have been built at the turn of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

The Kerkstraat—also known as the Back Side—is a quieter street, with some pleasant gay cafés and neighborhood bars and is one of the oldest gay areas of Amsterdam. Over the years the gay bars have diminished in number but recently the area has been revived by some of the straight venues staging gay-themed nights. Here you will also find the Stadsschouwburg Theatre built from 1892 to 1894 and now the hub for a thriving performing arts community.

Lloyd Hotel

Rembrandt Monument


Oude Kerk



The sidewalk cafes, restaurants and shops which surround this magnificent building serve all the local residents and visiting actors. Just a short tram ride from here is the nineteenth century Museum Plein, a culture lovers dream come true. The Rijksmuseum, The Van Gogh Museum, concert halls, diamond merchants, haute couture boutiques, parkland and other historic buildings make this a pinnacle of sophistication for hours of enjoyment.

The Pink Point district is on Westermarkt and includes the Homomonument and the world's first gay and lesbian information kiosk. The Homomonument was declared open to the public on September 5, 1987 and this year celebrates its twentieth anniversary. Each of the three pink triangles has its own significance in the history of persecution relating to gays and lesbians. The COC, gay and lesbian rights organisation also has their offices within two blocks of the monument. Coincidentally, just a block away is the Anne Frank House and museum—another tribute to individuals' survival of persecution. And of course there are numerous bookstores, galleries, cafes, bars, fitness clubs and everything you would expect to find in a highly focused gay residential area.

For those who initially like some assistance to find their way around a new city there are two great gay and lesbian bicycle tours—historic and hysteric! On these Mac Bike guided cycle tours one can explore the GLBT side of Amsterdam by day or night and learn about the history or the entertainment offered throughout the city's heart and soul. The tours vary in length from nine to sixteen kilometers and last about two hours, but you are also free to leave the route at any point and head off to explore for yourself. The night tours are more popular as the canals light up, the bars and restaurants open their doors and Amsterdam sparkles.

Another magical way to see Amsterdam is on a boat tour of the canals. Several companies offer day or candlelight night tours of the city and some of the evening tours include dinner and drinks. Also, the canal buses cover a circular route of the old city and you are free to get on and off at the next stop whenever you see something that requires a little more detailed exploration. It is amazing how everything is seen from a different perspective when cruising the canals.

Although Amsterdam is world famous for its many attractions like the Red Light District—worthy of a visit whether you're straight or gay—and liberal sexual entertainment laws, it is probably the brown cafes and coffeeshops that most people remember when they return home. Both of these names need a little explanation. A brown café is a local pub where the lighting is always dim and the walls have turned brown from age and tobacco smoke. They range in size from small and cozy to large tavern-like rooms. There is never any music and the only sounds come from Dutch conversation and the tinkling of glasses being filled with local beer. Uniquely, a coffeeshop can be recognised by the distinct aroma in the air before you even reach the front door. You don't have to graduate from Cannabis College to know what is available in these coffeeshops, but the menu will be like nothing you've ever seen anywhere else in the world. By this point in your holiday you might have wondered why Amsterdamers always have a smile on their faces, but once inside a coffeeshop you'll begin to understand what your holiday trip to Amsterdam is about—a happy face!

Be sure to enjoy everything that this liberal city has to offer, but remember some moderation is in order as you will probably be in this unique environment for at least a few days and survival is a key holiday component.

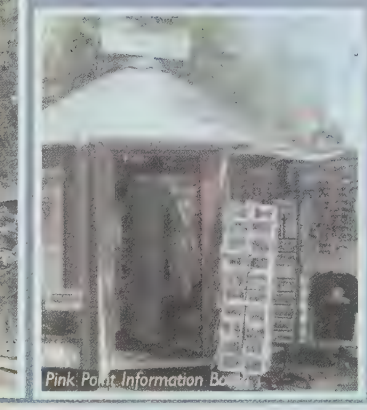
In addition to this city's wonderful urban offerings, you might be surprised to learn that during the summer you can take a short journey to one of the man-made beaches at Blijburg, Strand Beach Suid, or Amsterdam Plage that will provide a pleasant escape from the high-energy city life. Each is accessible by public transport and has cafés and beautiful sandy beaches for relaxation during a hot summer day. If you are in Amsterdam during their spring time—late March to late May—you might want to escape the city for a tour of the tulip fields and witness a colourful spectacle that distinctly heralds the upcoming summer season.

At any time of the year a tour of the Alkamaar cheese market and Schermerhorn windmills will be a journey back in time. At the market you can see the cheese carriers in their traditional costumes and on the windmill tour you will learn the importance of these national symbols in Dutch history. On the return to Amsterdam you will also visit the town of Edam, which requires no explanation.

When choosing accommodation, Amsterdam offers everything you might expect from such a popular gay destination. You can choose a friendly gay bed and breakfast, a large gay hotel, a leather pensionne complete with slings in the rooms and private dungeon, a classic five storey historic small hotel overlooking a canal, a gay guesthouse or a gay-friendly modern hotel. The old dock land area has been recently renovated into a trendy inner city neighbourhood populated by many gays and lesbians and also is home to the recently renovated historic Lloyd Hotel, which is highly recommended for the variety and style of rooms, excellent food and cozy bar. There are several online resources to help you choose your own favorite style of accommodation at a price to suit your budget.

This is a city where the only limits placed upon your vacation are the limits of your own imagination and willingness to explore the unusual offerings that Amsterdam has in abundance.

From the artworks of the old Dutch masters in the Rembrandt Museum, through the euphoric highs in the coffeeshops, to today's Dutch "masters" in the dungeons of the Dark Side, Amsterdam earns its reputation as the gay capital of Europe. It is worthy of at least a once in a lifetime visit. You'll probably end up returning for a second look—and much more!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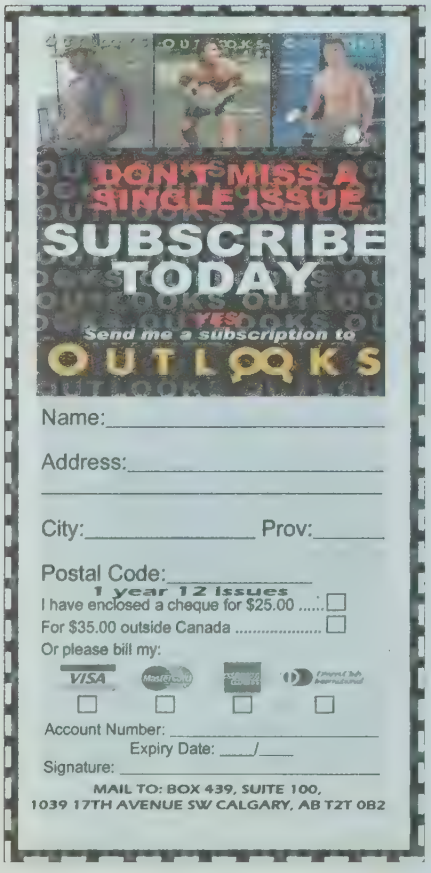
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CURTIS'S FRIENDS REACT TO THEIR FIRST MEETING WITH SOIRÉE...
GUYS, COME ON. WHAT'S UP WITH THE SILENCE... YOUR OPINIONS MEAN A LOT TO ME -- WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MY BOYFRIEND?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA HEAR THAT, CURTIS?
YES!
WELL, I'M NOT IMPRESSED, TO SAY THE LEAST.
WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS WHY YOU'D EVEN WANT TO BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM? I MEAN, CURTIS, YOU'RE A CATCH. YOU COULD DO SO MUCH BETTER.
BRO, YOU KNOW HOW HARD WE'VE WORKED TO RISE ABOVE STEREOTYPES... TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT AN AFRICAN AMERICAN GAY MAN CAN BE INTELLIGENT, SUCCESSFUL, ARTICULATE, AND MASCULINE.
LOOK, YOU ONLY SAW ONE SIDE OF HIM. TRUST ME ON THIS ONE: DELROY IS A VERY INTELLIGENT, TALENTED, PROUD BLACK MAN WITH A WONDERFUL HEART.
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE... BUT HIS TYPE SETS US BACK DECADES.
EXACTLY. SORRY, BUT HE EPITOMIZES SOCIETY'S STEREOTYPES OF A FLAMBOYANT BLACK QUEEN. I CRINGE WHEN I SEE SOMEONE LIKE THAT OUT THERE REPRESENTING US!
"REPRESENTING" US?! NO ONE UNDERSTANDS GAY BLACK POLITICS BETTER THAN ME, BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: THE ONLY ONE WHO REPRESENTS ME IS ME.
GENTLEMEN, YOUR TABLE IS READY. IF YOU'D LIKE TO FOLLOW ME...
© 2007 HANSON+NEUWIRTH
AT A DOWNTOWN CLUB, 20 MINUTES LATER...
LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE HOTTEST DIVA IN THE WHOLE FUCKIN' WORLD...
HURRY, BITCH. BUCKLE ME UP!!
...SOIRÉE!!
HEY, ALL YOU FAGGOTS!!
CHEER! CLAP! HOOT!
ARE Y'ALL--
...AS MOTHERFUCKIN' HAPPY AS I AM RIGHT NOW!?
GOOD! THEN SHUT UP, 'CAUSE THIS FIRST SONG IS DEDICATED TO SOMEONE REALLY SPECIAL...
WWW.CHELSEABOYS.COM

It's A Wonderful World

Max & Scott

By Ralph Higgins

Queer Nova Scotians take justifiable pride in their province. The capital city, Halifax, has the fourth largest Pride Parade in Canada, gay activism has been alive and kicking for many years and several gay historic firsts have happened here in Canada's Ocean Playground. The first same sex marriage in North America between soldiers on a military base took place here in 2005 and a year later, Nova Scotia was also the setting when two male Mounties each got his man—nuptially speaking. These stories were duly reported in the media but were not generally the subjects of protest or comment. Oh, there was a bit of a tempest in a teacup when the wedding picture of Ashley MacIsaac kissing his spouse appeared on the front page of a Halifax newspaper, but this was an anomaly. As a rule, most Nova Scotians consider themselves friendly and welcoming, with an easy "live and let live" attitude.

But every rule has exceptions. In early August, a small group of pride members asked the Truro town council to fly the rainbow flag to kick off the community's first ever pride activities. Not only did Mayor Bill Mills refuse the request, the town council backed him up in a 6 – 1 vote. Stunned by the decision, the pride committee was even more astonished when the mayor cited Biblical passages as the foundation for his decision along with a desire to avoid being seen as supporting the gay "lifestyle".

That's when the "fun" really began.

Civil libertarians began writing angry letters exhorting the council to maintain the division between church and state, deploring the mayor's dragging of his personal beliefs into public office. Outraged theologians accused Mayor Mills of picking only the Biblical passages that supposedly uphold his personal prejudices. Newspaper cartoonists had a field day lampooning Mayor Mills. Local townspeople spoke to national television and newspaper reporters expressing disappointment in their elected official. Aside from the very occasional letter to the editor with a "good for you, Bill" message, Mayor Mills appeared to have virtually no support.

The nearby town of New Glasgow had no trouble agreeing to a similar request from its gay community and in the municipality of Colchester County (the county in which Truro is located), not only did Mayor Mike Smith agree enthusiastically to raise the flag but was also quoted as saying, "If we're not willing to show leadership and stand up and celebrate then shame on all of us." Very pointed words, and it is a significant indication of social change that from the outset it was the mayor who was being asked to justify his actions.

A gay rally was held as part of the planned pride activities, and although well attended, still there was disappointment for many, like local resident Charles Thompson who felt deprived of his right to be accepted—not merely tolerated—in his own home town. Having returned to Truro from away, he had hoped for a warmer welcome.

It was not only members of the queer community who suffered disappointment. When tourists began calling to cancel bookings in Truro and mentioned the gay pride decision as the reason, business owners took notice. Town councilors started making public statements distancing themselves from the mayor's decision (although they had backed him at the time). Damage control became the phrase of the day. As of this writing, there is a possibility that a Human Rights complaint will be filed.

In sharp contrast, in a much smaller community in the next county, preparations for a much bigger event were underway. On August 18, in the small community of Cheverie on the shores of the Minas Basin, Scott Brison married Maxime St. Pierre. This was the first same sex wedding of a federal Member of Parliament.

In the days leading up to the wedding, local inhabitants caught glimpses of former prime ministers and other well known figures attending farmers markets and shopping for antiques but took the presence of celebrities and the heightened security in their stride. The 200 or so inhabitants of Cheverie have known Brison and his family since he was born. Wary of outsiders and protective of their own, they understood and respected Brison and St. Pierre's wish for the wedding to be a family affair rather than a media circus and had little or no comment when questioned by reporters. Those members of the press who hoped to stir up some newsworthy controversy by interviewing locals upset by same sex marriage had no luck. The sentiment most often expressed was to wish the two men happiness together.

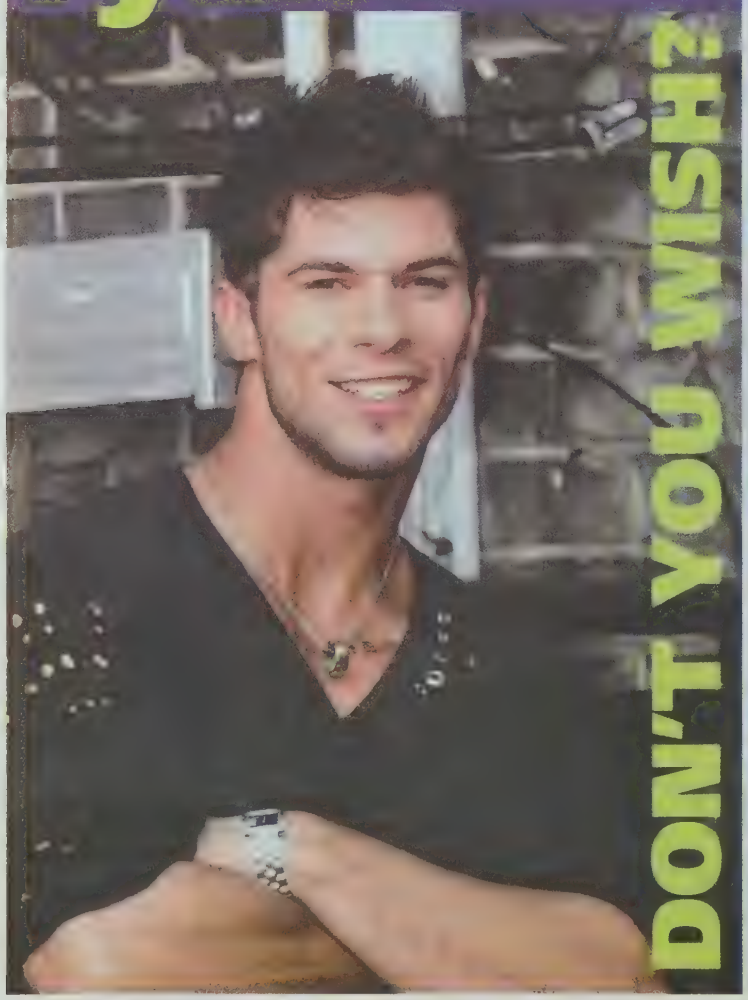
Both Scott and his parents have their homes here alongside the waters of the Bay of Fundy and the white tents set up for the reception made a striking appearance against the backdrop of water, sky and the headland of Cape Blomidon in the distance. This is also the area where, every summer, Brison hosts a chicken barbecue for his constituents, an afternoon of music, food and relaxation. One of the traditions of the barbecue was for Brison to give his tongue in cheek rendition of the Tammy Wynette hit, *Stand By Your Man*, which was always received with great applause and laughter. Now, there was a real occasion to stand by his man, Max, and exchange vows and to do so publicly, surrounded by former prime ministers, members of parliament and held in the welcoming embrace of his family and friends, not in order to make history, but as a simple declaration between Scott and Max of their loving connection and commitment to each other. Friends and family had been asked by Brison and St.Pierre not to make public statements about the upcoming wedding and guests were requested not to bring cameras so that the ceremony could be as private as possible.

Scott and Max walked up the aisle together to the song *It's A Wonderful World*, exchanged vows and thirty minutes later, left the church as a married couple to the cheers and applause of their guests. It rained steadily that Saturday requiring a change of venue for the reception from the white tents by the shore to the United Church, but nothing could dim the bright smiles of the two newly-married men on this day of historical and personal significance. ▼

is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis

This actor & model from Thunder Bay now makes his home in Toronto. He is a CoverGuy contestant which airs on OutTV.

ryan



DON'T YOU WISH?

HOROSCOPE

Come out and make your presence known this October as National Coming Out month gets underway. We get our jollies by the boatload as retro Uranus squares expansive Jupiter. When is too much, too much? We'll let you know. And until then....

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

There'll be nothing to stop you from tearing up the scenery in October gay Ram. The world beckons and you'll ache to heed the siren call. Uranus square Jupiter will make you less discerning or diplomatic than usual. There is a chance that you will leave wreckage in your wake. Yet this shouldn't prevent you from testing new waters and seeing what floats to the surface. Is it brown?

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Friends and lovers will come to a contretemps this October if you bite off more than you can chew. Queer Bulls are known for their ample appetites and I suspect that you will gorge yourself on good times and feisty company. And why not? It's National Coming Out month, compadre. No one should sit at home and vegetate. Feast on red meat.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Don't overwork yourself this National Coming Out month. Pink Twins can be pushed and pulled between career demands and relationship needs. You may begin to feel betwixt and between. But it's not all one big headache, despite the unsteady corporate minefield. A certain someone comes to the rescue with a much need power boost. Or maybe they just gently sap your strength?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

As much as they may try to fade into the wallpaper, gay Crabs will find themselves on the front page this October. What remarkable feat will you achieve? Sometimes the best way to achieve notoriety is to quietly toil in the background and plot a revolution. There will be time at the end of October to successfully implement any dastardly plans. Heh, heh, heh.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

National Coming Out month will be packed with raucous fun which can quickly and easily get way out of hand. No sooner do you plan a Wilde soiree, than the guest list exponentially increases with everyone from the A to the Z list. Your sexual menu runs the gamut of tastes. Lucky thing. Proud Lions won't know which end is up. And this is bad?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Expect some surprises in your domestic situation this October. Uranus will square Jupiter and can create mountains from molehills. Maybe this is what you really want. Queer Virgins who are seeking a change may find that the grass is not really greener elsewhere. It is much better to attend to the crabgrass you have rather than pull on a patch across town.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

If you find that your stress is building at work, take a breath and avoid complaining about it while you are there. Even a stray comment has profound impact now, proud Libra. And yet you may feel compelled. National Coming Out month is a time for liberation. If that means an extended wine-laden lunch or last minute vacation, why argue?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

There'll be something crazy and Wilde about you this National Coming Out month, proud Scorp. Is it your jaunty confidence? Is it your loose wallet or sense of frantic wit? Don't try to deconstruct your yen to push the boundaries as well as a few tight buttons. The nightlife beckons. Check out the right hot spots and put the "cool" back in your kool-aid.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

As much as you would like to swill, chill and gel, National Coming Out month will not let you rest. It will bring excitement and possible dramatic changes at home. Maybe that means that crowds beat a path to your door. Or maybe you will be forced to attend to long overdue home improvements. Whatever happens you can be sure that it will be over the top. Whoohoo!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps can mentally hit the ball out of the park all through October. Any measured opinion can gain traction and enter into the cultural zeitgeist. So instead of droning on and on about some minor matter, harness your mind, gird your loins and make a noise that carries and resonates. It may become so hefty and powerful that you attain the mark of a sage. Then again....

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Trawling around town with the usual crowd may tap into more of your financial resources than you expect or want. Do pals expect you to carry the day all through National Coming Out month? If so, decide how much of a social director you want to be and either go with the flow or buck the tide. Of course you can also just wash up on shore with the rest of the flotsam.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies will become corporate supernovas this National Coming Out month. Or at least they think so. If you have the urge to capture the stage and suck the life out of every new opportunity, you may make the upper ranks sit up and take notice. But is this the type of notice that you yearn to have? My advice: Spread joy to those in the lower ranks. You can never sink too low.

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Lichtenstein's blog, www.thestarryeye.typepad.com covers everything New Age. Her astrology book HerScopes: A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians *is an international sensation. Buy it and feel the vibration.*

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OUTLOOKS.CA

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Surveys which contain a name and address will be entered in the prize draw for $100 CASH and a collection of books and DVDs valued at $150

ARE YOU:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Trans-gendered
- ☐ Openly Gay
- ☐ Semi-closeted
- ☐ Closeted
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Straight

YOUR AGE GROUP IS:

- ☐ 15-25
- ☐ 26-35
- ☐ 36-45
- ☐ 46-55
- ☐ 55+

OCCUPATION:

- ☐ Professional
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Service/Retail
- ☐ Arts and culture
- ☐ Other:

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATION?

- ☐ Junior High School
- ☐ High School
- ☐ College
- ☐ University
- ☐ Ph.D.
- ☐ Technical Institute
- ☐ Graduate Studies

INCOME:

- ☐ under $20,000
- ☐ $21,000 - $30,000
- ☐ $31,000 - $39,000
- ☐ $40,000 - $59,000
- ☐ $60,000 - $100,000
- ☐ $100,000+

RESIDENCE:

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Share
- ☐ Live with parents
- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Sublet

LOCATION OF PRIMARY RESIDENCE:

- ☐ Downtown/Urban
- ☐ Suburban
- ☐ Rural

TYPE OF RESIDENCE:

- ☐ Condominium
- ☐ Townhouse
- ☐ House
- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Other

WHICH AMENITIES DO YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT TO HAVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO YOU?

- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Workplace
- ☐ Gym/Recreation
- ☐ Bars/Nightclubs
- ☐ Grocery Store
- ☐ Coffee Shops
- ☐ Gay Village

WHEN BUYING A DWELLING, DO YOU LOOK FOR:

- ☐ A new property
- ☐ A fixer-upper
- ☐ A pre-owned property

APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY PEOPLE READ YOUR COPY OF OUTLOOKS?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6+

WHICH OTHER LOCAL PUBLICATIONS DO YOU READ ON A REGULAR BASIS?

- ☐ FFWD
- ☐ WestEnder
- ☐ Now
- ☐ fab
- ☐ Wayves
- ☐ Georgia Straight
- ☐ Xtra!
- ☐ Where
- ☐ Vue
- ☐ Exclaim
- ☐ Perceptions
- ☐ Xtra!West
- ☐ CapitalXtra!
- ☐ Outword
- ☐ SEE
- ☐ GayCalgary.com
- ☐ Daily Tabloids (Calgary Sun, etc)
- ☐ Daily Broadsheets (Globe&Mail, National Post, etc)
- ☐ Other:

OTHER NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS YOU READ ON A REGULAR BASIS

- ☐ Advocate
- ☐ Genre
- ☐ XY
- ☐ Gay Times
- ☐ Out
- ☐ GQ
- ☐ Attitude
- ☐ Details
- ☐ Esquire
- ☐ Back
- ☐ Mag
- ☐ DNA
- ☐ Other:

DO REPRINTS OF APPROPRIATE MAINSTREAM NEWS/CURRENT EVENTS STORIES INTEREST YOU?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes

DO YOU, AS A RULE, TEND TO SUPPORT OUTLOOKS' ADVERTISERS?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes

HOW OFTEN DO YOU DINE OUT PER WEEK?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PURCHASE BIG-TICKET ($1000+) ITEMS IN A YEAR?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

DO YOU WORK OUT? IF SO, HOW OFTEN PER WEEK?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

HAVE YOU HAD, OR WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES?

- ☐ Liposuction
- ☐ Laser resurfacing
- ☐ Chemical peel Laser
- ☐ Eye Surgery
- ☐ Face Lift
- ☐ Teeth Whitening

WHAT TYPE OF PET(S) DO YOU OWN?

- ☐ Cats
- ☐ Dogs
- ☐ Birds
- ☐ Horses
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other:

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO OUT TO NIGHTCLUBS OR BARS PER MONTH?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

DO YOU SOCIALIZE IN CHATROOMS?

- ☐ Often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

IF YOU ARE AN INTERNET USER, IS YOUR CONNECTION

- ☐ Cable
- ☐ DSL
- ☐ Wireless

IN TERMS OF TELEVISION CHANNELS, IS YOUR HOME ON:

- ☐ Tier 1 Cable
- ☐ Tier 2 or higher Cable
- ☐ Digital Cable
- ☐ Satellite
- ☐ OutTV

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL ON BUSINESS IN CANADA PER YEAR?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL FOR PLEASURE IN CANADA PER YEAR?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL INTERNATIONALLY PER YEAR?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ Three times
- ☐ Four+
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

WHAT TYPE OF TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS DO YOU PREFER?

- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Condo
- ☐ Gay Resort
- ☐ RV
- ☐ Hotel
- ☐ Timeshare
- ☐ B&B
- ☐ Cabin

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE FOLLOWING DESTINATIONS PER YEAR?

United States _____ Mexico_____ Europe_____

UK_____ Australia _____ South America_____

Other_____

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION?

_____

NAME YOUR FAVORITE CITY IN THE FOLLOWING:

Mexico_____ Europe_____

United States_____ Canada_____

DO YOU LEASE OR OWN YOUR VEHICLE?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Lease
- ☐ No Vehicle

WHEN YOU PURCHASE AN AUTOMOBILE, WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR YOUR SELECTION PROCESS?

- ☐ Manufacturer
- ☐ Model/Style/Colour
- ☐ Performance
- ☐ Mileage/Interior
- ☐ Service/Maint.
- ☐ Warranty
- ☐ Friends' Advice or Referrals
- ☐ Auto column articles
- ☐ Gay-friendly dealership
- ☐ Fuel consumption

IN OUTLOOKS I READ:

	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
Astrology	☐	☐	☐
Adult Movie Review	☐	☐	☐
Cinematic Reviews	☐	☐	☐
Book Reviews	☐	☐	☐
Travel Features	☐	☐	☐
Gay Men in Business	☐	☐	☐
Issue-Related Editorial	☐	☐	☐
Humour	☐	☐	☐
Don't You Wish?	☐	☐	☐
Out & About Features	☐	☐	☐
Fiction	☐	☐	☐
Cuisine	☐	☐	☐
Opinion	☐	☐	☐
Sports	☐	☐	☐
Politics	☐	☐	☐
Arts	☐	☐	☐
In the News	☐	☐	☐
Living/Decor	☐	☐	☐
Fashion	☐	☐	☐
Chelsea Boys	☐	☐	☐
CD Reviews	☐	☐	☐
TV Reviews	☐	☐	☐
Publisher's Column	☐	☐	☐
Classified Pages	☐	☐	☐

LIST THE PRIORITY OF YOUR CONSUMER SPENDING HABITS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, USING A 1-10 SCALE (10 being Highest)

- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Stereo Equipment
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Sports Equipment
- ☐ Films
- ☐ Auto Accessories
- ☐ Dining Out
- ☐ Home Improvement
- ☐ Travel
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Flowers/Gardening
- ☐ Electronics (TV/DVD)
- ☐ Furnishings
- ☐ Luxury Goods
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Health Food/Supplements
- ☐ Computer Equip
- ☐ Continuing Education

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE ISSUES OF OUTLOOKS?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

WHEN MAKING A PURCHASE FOR GOODS OR SERVICES, DO YOU TELL THE SUPPLIER THAT YOU SAW THEIR ADVERTISEMENT IN OUTLOOKS?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes

DO YOU FEEL MORE AT HOME IF AN ESTABLISHMENT PROMINENTLY DISPLAYS A RAINBOW FLAG OR STICKER?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Care

WHICH FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DO YOU USE TO CONDUCT MOST OF YOUR DAY-TO-DAY BANKING?

- ☐ CIBC
- ☐ RBC Royal Bank
- ☐ HSBC
- ☐ Bank of Montreal
- ☐ Scotia Bank
- ☐ TD Canada Trust
- ☐ Credit Union Mortgage Specialist
- ☐ Other chartered bank
- ☐ Other: _____

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS DO YOU CURRENTLY USE?
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Stock broker
- ☐ Financial Planner
- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Buy/Trade Online (self)
- ☐ Other:

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOUR READING PLEASURE IN OUTLOOKS?

- ☐ Stories
- ☐ Classifieds
- ☐ Advertisements
- ☐ Cartoons
- ☐ Astrology

DO YOU APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT OUTLOOKS IS NATIONAL IN SCOPE?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Indifferent

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE FOR COMMENTS, CRITICISMS OR SUGGESTIONS.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

OPTIONAL INFORMATION
(complete if you want to be entered into the prize draw)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email Address:

[illegible]
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Michael Phair's Roast

September 8

Michael's parade entrance

30th Anniversary Kickoff at the Roost

September 16

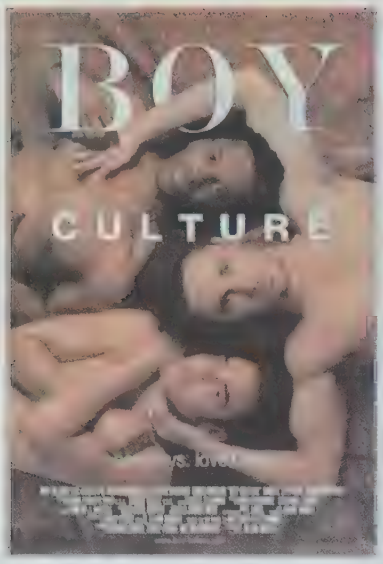
Planning an event in Edmonton? Contact jackson@jacksonphotografix.com and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: jacksonphotografix.com

Rebar Family Reunion

August 31 at New City Suburbs

Richard Teha Memorial Pool Tournament

September 15 at Woody's



DVD REVIEW

Boy Culture

Directed by: Q. Allan Brocka
From: tla Releasing
Running Time: 88 minutes
Release Date: 2007

Twenty-five year-old "X" (Derek Magyar) is a high-priced and exclusive hustler who tries to lead an uncomplicated life. He had twelve clients, and treats them as his "disciples". He has sex, he gets paid, and the transaction is complete, no messy entanglements. But X's home life is far less cut and dried.

In order to keep the IRS from getting suspicious, X has taken on two roommates—Andrew (Darryl Stephens), who only recently came out and is still a "type one" gay man full of virtue and the illusions of purity, and eighteen year-old Joey (Jonathon Trent), who X has somewhat adopted. Joey is completely in love with X, but X feels something towards Andrew, even if he's not quire sure what it is. A certain amount of admiration is there for Andrew's idealism, which X takes as a sense of decency and morals which he shares—after all to him, his hustling is just a job, the sex a transaction. X hasn't had sex where money wasn't involved since he was twelve, and he holds a dismissive attitude towards gay men in own his buried idealism.

But when Andrew starts loosening up his "type one" personality, X gets upset. As well, with an invitation looming for Andrew to attend his former fiancée's wedding, he's invited X to join him. Added to this, X has just taken on a new twelfth "disciple" after the untimely demise of one client, and Gregory (Patrick Bauchau) is no ordinary john. He won't even have sex with X until he feels that X desires him as much as he desires X, and their relationship starts making X re-examine the various facets of his life—especially his feelings towards Andrew.

Boy Culture is full of wry humour and rather cutting insights, largely through X's cynical and sarcastic narration, but the entire cast is given their share on bon mots. The "family" dynamic between X, Andrew and Joey is also delightful to watch, and the strength of the story overpowers the sense of unreality that surrounds X as a character. Q. Allan Brocka, famous for *Eating Out* and *Rick and Steve*, has once again demonstrated his talent for humour and hidden gems of brilliance. *Boy Culture* is a thoroughly enjoyable film with an engaging and oh so sexy cast that deserves far more praise than has already been lavished upon it. ▼

DVD available at **tlavideo.com**

Dale Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Ottawa. His work also regularly appears in Capital Xtra and Ottawa Xpress, and he has previously written for XY Magazine.

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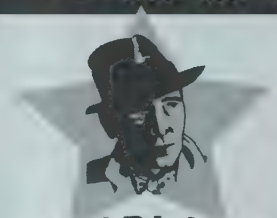

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Canadians for Choice present Safer Sex and the City

August 30 at Arts Court

Capoeira

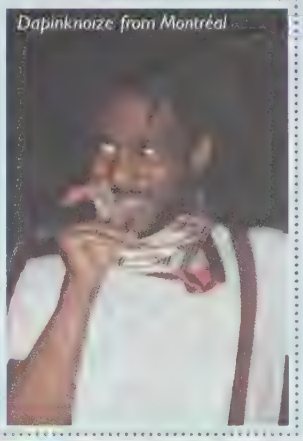
Wabana Women Drummers

Patricia & Nadia

SAW Gallery Disorganized

September 16 at City Hall

Zator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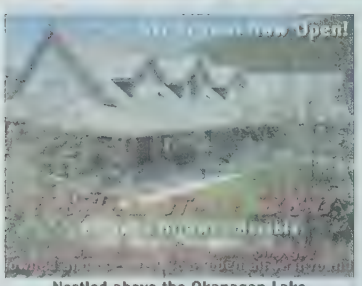

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By Darrin Hagen

It was a gala evening as some of Edmonton's elite gathered to celebrate the career of a true Edmontonian: Michael Phair, after fifteen years in office as city Councillor, is exiting gracefully from a political life well-lived.

Ann MacLellan wore a red feather boa. Mayor Stephen Mandel arrived late-ish, albeit still in time for dinner. Journalist Paula Simons had a bag of sparkly CariWest Festival wear at the ready for her presentation.

And then the Man of the Hour Michael Phair entered, carried on a sedan chair, with a beautiful child throwing flower petals on the floor ahead of him. A flowered shirt and a pink cowboy hat meant Mr. Phair stood out as only he can, even though it was one of his more sedate ensembles over the years.

A fitting entrance for a timely exit from civic politics. Michael Phair has forever changed people's idea of what a city councilor can be.

Flamboyant, compassionate, a dedicated activist, and an occasionally outrageous presence on Edmonton's City Council, Phair was Edmonton's—and Alberta's—first openly gay politician. He made an easy and natural transition from the world of activism, fighting for equal rights for Edmonton's gay and lesbian community, into standing up for the quality of life of all Edmontonians.

Health, education and human rights issues have always been front and centre for Phair. Way back in 1986, the Edmonton Journal awarded Phair the Citizen of the Year Award. But even though it may have been the first time that many of the locals had heard of him, in Edmonton's queer scene, he was already approaching legend, having established the AIDS Network as well as taking the lead in many early moments in Edmonton's activist history.

When the Pisces Spa was raided in 1981, it was Phair who organized the protests on the steps of city hall. When gay men were targeted for violence in Edmonton's downtown cruising areas, it was Phair who photocopied leaflets warning people to be careful.

In Council Chambers, Phair was dedicated and vocal, bringing a passion and good old-fashioned business sense to the debates. He was a voice for the left-leaning, definitely, but never a one-note or a one-issue politician. But it was Phair's presence at practically every event, parade, function or community picnic that set the bar for community involvement for all civic politicians. He was always there, often dressed in theme when he could.

Ahh, the fashion sense. Many a joke was made at the Roast about Phair's rumpled casualness, his colour sense, his refusal to ever wear a tie in Council Chambers, and, of course, his infamous and annual CariWest parade appearances. Wearing outfits that made Cher look positively tame by comparison, he fearlessly strutted in parades, raising more than a few eyebrows. It would be hard to imagine a politician who would put himself out there so fearlessly and so completely.

But that fearlessness is exactly what made Phair a powerful presence in Edmonton over the last two decades. And his tireless efforts on behalf of Edmonton's cultural communities, his advocacy for a greener and more compassionate Edmonton, reached far past the queer community from whence he emerged. Phair fought for a more attractive and safe Edmonton.

Phair's name isn't finished making a difference in Edmonton. In addition to spearheading the city's new Queer Arts celebration, *Exposed*, a special award has been established in his name.

The Michael Phair Leadership Award is the first LGBTQ-specific award in the history of the University of Alberta. Designed to recognize the very qualities that Phair added to Edmonton's quality of life, the award will go to those who demonstrate leadership qualities and involvement in community activities, and to those who show commitment to the enrichment and advancement of the very community from which Phair emerged.

Fern Snart, Dean of the University of Alberta, remarked that "I am extremely proud to have the Michael Phair Leadership Award based in the Faculty of Education, and particularly proud that it is the first U of A award with preference given to students who are committed to the issues of LGBTQ individuals. Having such an award named to honor Mr. Phair is indeed fitting; he models 'being true to oneself', and he inspires courage and commitment."

Truer words would be hard to come by. Phair not only inspires, he embodies those qualities.

At Michael's Roast, the proof of his influence was at every table. Friends from every part of his life, politicians, artists, the well-heeled and the struggling, the famous, the infamous, the unknown, and the faces recognized from every gay rights battle from the last two decades. The legacy is already in motion. Every person in that room counted Phair as an early role model or hero. Many of them have already changed the world in their own way.

It is another groundbreaking moment inspired by a life lived in the open: unafraid, uncompromising, and gay as can be.

To make a charitable donation to the Michael Phair Leadership Award endowment, visit **uofaweb.ualberta.ca/makeagift**, or phone Sean Mowat at 780 492-8863. ▼

Darrin Hagen is the author of 1 book and 11 plays, all of which [illegible] dress. He is currently working on an updated 10th anniversary edition of "[illegible] Queen".

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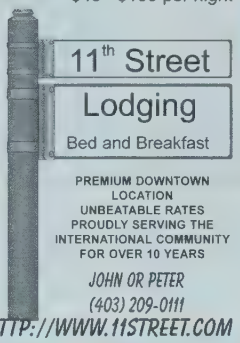

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402 friends

Looking for a friend into leather and light S&M. I'm mid-forties, 5'11", 170lbs, shaved head and physically fit. You should be similar and live in the Calgary region. Send photo and letter to reply # 1001

Fit and healthy 57 year old want a good relationship with younger guy between 20 and 30 for fun times. Must able to travel and be an aggressive well hung top. Send stats and photo to Reply # 1002

Looking for Black or Arab male for fun times no strings attached. I'm 45, 5'10", 160lbs attractive bottom. Seeking no strings attached friendship. Reply # 1003

Tall 6'6", blond, blue-eyed attractive young male seeking another tall man for fun and friendship, may lead to more with the right person. Must be in Southern Alberta. Send details to Reply # 1004

Cute Asian Male seeking generous sugar-daddy types. I am 23, 5'6", have a gymnasts body and I am very friendly and easy to get along with. Looking for a good friendship that can lead to long term relationship. Reply # 1005

Shy GWM looking friends. I am 35 just out and I enjoy camping, swimming and most outdoor activities. Looking for friends 30 to 40 with similar interests in Vancouver. REPLY #0902

Warm, sensitive, female looking for understanding and caring friends between ages 45 to 60. I am in my early 40s and I enjoy books, poetry, walks along the beach and cooking dinner for two. REPLY # 0903

GWM 55, successful businessman, well traveled and fun loving. I'm looking for younger guys to spend time with seeking friendship and possibly more. I live in Southern Alberta but can travel. REPLY # 0904

Asian, 23, 5"3", 150lbs, swimmers build seeking friends and possibly more. Looking for guys 30 to 40 for possible meeting. I like swimming, hiking, camping, dinners at home and the movies. REPLY # 0905

Clean shaven, GWM, 32, seeking to meet other guys 18 to 35 for fun times and possibly more. I am an artist and I'm looking for caring, sensitive guys who also enjoy the finer things in life. REPLY # 0910

26 year old GWM in Calgary, looking for a long-term relation ship. Looking for a GWM 18-35, funny, smart, outgoing. Please reply to #0601 with pictures & profile.

GWM, 55, world travelled, own motorhome. Looking for mature man for future retirement plans. Reply #0501

Asian gay male, 45, looking for same under 30. Interested in casual friendship, possible long-term relationship. Enjoy travel, theatre and outdoor activities. Send photo and profile to Reply #0602

Brazil (45.180.96) GWM masculine hairy top, foot/tickle fetish seeks: 30-40 ND/NS non-slim caring, cuddlish, suportive blond (plus) serious life partner
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Fit, slim, 40's GWM, looking for long-term relationship. Seeking similar age male who enjoys an active lifestyle and keeping fit. Reply #0502

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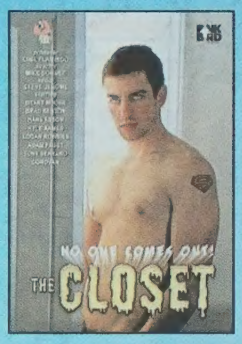

Featuring: Brant Moore, Brad Benton, Hans Ebson, Kyle Aames, Logan Robbins, Adam Faust, Tony Serrano, Donovan

Running Time: 110 Minutes

When Tim (Brant Moore) rents an empty house he is completely unaware of the strange history that accompanies his new digs. Sitting at home alone, he decides to go online and try to find a house-warming date for the evening. It doesn't take long for him to connect with Tony Serrano who is more than willing to come over but he wants Tim to wear his black jock strap. That mystifies Tim as he doesn't own one, but the liaison is set and Tony is on his way. Just at that moment a black jock strap appears on the chair across from Tim. He's surprised, but thinks maybe it was there before he sat down.

Dressed in the black jock strap and a white vest, Tim is ready for action when Tony knocks on his door. They immediately fall into each other's arms and never get past the living room. These two well hung studs show their versatility from top to bottom until they are both exhausted. Tim takes a shower while Tony looks around the house. But Tony gets a shock when he opens a closet door and disappears into some kind of strange vortex. Tim comes out of the shower and thinks his date left without saying goodbye—hot sex and then run back to wifey.

Later during a nap, Tim is awakened by a loud banging on his front door. To his surprise it's three of his young friends in a drunken stupor who want to crash at his place for the night. He agrees to let them use the spare bedroom but declines an offer to join them for late night sex. That doesn't stop this horny threesome from making good use of the king size bed which greets them. Despite their inebriated state, they manage to enjoy the moment until they pass out. But when they wake up and wander around to explore the house they all disappear into the closet, never to return.

Tim starts his morning by visiting his surprise houseguests, only to discover that they also left without saying goodbye.

Gradually he learns more and more about the history of this strange house and eventually he checks out the closet only to find a big surprise waiting for him—with no way out.

The moral of this story is that once you're out of the closet don't go back in under any circumstances!

RATING: (OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★
SETS:	★★★★
STORY:	★★★★

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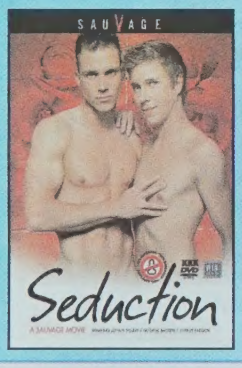
Seduction

From: Eurocreme - Sauvage



Featuring: Jeffery Radden, Neel Jenson, Johan Volny, Kamil Fox, George Basten, Johny Hunter, Luk Anders, Adam Sebastian Grant, Fery Kopp, David Satty, Cody Gess, Mark Blowl

Running Time: 110 minutes

This is the story about two friends, Neel Jenson and Mark Blowl, who work on a construction site, but find the work very hard. Neel never wanted this job and he would do anything for a change of career. One day during a work break Mark joins his friend and tells him that he knows of another job that would be perfect for Neel. Of course Neel is immediately interested and wants to know more details. When he finds out that it's modeling he's not sure if he's good-looking enough, but says that if the money is good he's willing to give it a try. And so begins a new adventure for Neel in a world that is very exciting and inviting.

George Basten is preparing for a big fashion show with a couple of models rehearsing their moves when Mark drops by to see if he needs another model for the show. To Mark's delight they are short one model for the runway, so Mark suggests his friend Neel. George readily agrees and wants him there that night for the show.

After Mark leaves and George returns to his task of hanging drapes for the show, the two models offer to help George with his work. George is at the top of a very wobbly stepladder and the two hot young guys are prepared to make sure he doesn't fall. Except their hands begin to hold onto the wrong parts of George's body and before the drapes are hung they find out how well George is hung. This is not the kind of rehearsal George had in mind, but he submits happily to the young guys' advances. It's a prelude to what awaits Neel when he joins the world of modeling.

That night the fashion show is a huge success. The stage is perfect, the lights are great and the models are sensational. Neel fits right in and obviously has the perfect attributes to join this group of stunning young models. After the show the celebrations are in full swing when Neel meets one of the other models—Luk Anders. It's love at first sight and it appears that the rest of Neel's life is going to be very different from his life on a construction site.

One scene after another exposes the daily chores of a model and reveals all that is entailed to survive in this highly competitive industry. Neel quickly proves he's up to the task and can keep up with the experienced performers.

RATING: (OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★½
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★★
STORY:	★★★★

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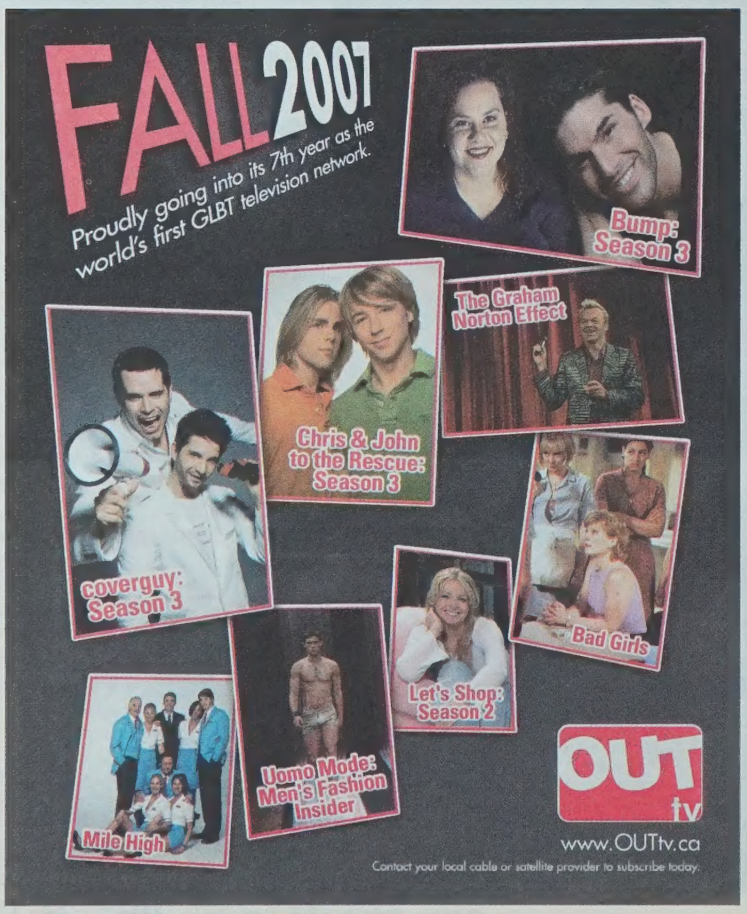

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